

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, ROOM 159
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
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WASHINGTON, DC 20580

FEBRUARY 12, 2002

I AM WRITING REGARDING THE PROPOSED FTC AMENDMENTS TO THE TELEMARKETING SALES RULE AND THE "DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY".

IT'S ABOUT TIME SOMETHING IS GOING TO BE DONE TO TAKE CARE OF MOST OF THE MENACING PHONE CALLS.

I AM DISTURBED NOT ONLY BY THESE CALLS ON MY PERSONAL TIME, BUT ALSO WHILE I AM WORKING AT MY BUSINESS. I MUST GET AT LEAST 2 OR THREE CALLS EACH AND EVERY DAY. CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW AGGRAVATING IT IS?

I AM ALSO ANGRY FOR ALL THE ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO GET THESE CALLS. MY MOTHER IS ONE OF THEM. THE WOMAN THAT TAKES CARE OF MY MOTHER HAS HER HANDS FULL EVERY MINUTE OF EACH DAY. YET, SHE HAS TO GO RUNNING TO THE PHONE ONLY TO FIND OUT IT'S A TELEMARKETER. I THINK ABOUT THE ELDERLY THAT HAVE A HARD TIME GETTING UP AND WALKING - TRYING TO ANSWER THESE RIDICULOUS CALLS. AND WE HAVE THE FACT THAT ALL LOT OF THE ELDERLY FALL PREY TO THESE SALES GIMICKS ONLY TO HAVE WHAT LITTLE MONEY THEY HAVE AVAILABLE TAKEN BY SLICK SALES PITCHES.

SURE THERE ARE LEGITIMATE COMPANIES USING TELEMARKETERS, BUT I AM SURE THERE ARE MANY MANY THAT ARE NOT - THEY ARE JUST SCAMS. OPENING THE DOOR TO THESE LEGITIMATE COMPANIES HAS ALSO OPEN OUR HOMES TO THE CROOKS. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO KEEP THESE CROOKS FROM COMING INTO MY HOME.

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CALL TO REGISTER ON THE "DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY". YES, I'D LIKE TO GET VERIFICATION THAT MY NUMBER IS ON THE REGISTRY. I'D LIKE MY NUMBER TO REMAIN ON THE LIST TILL I TAKE IT OFF. AS TO THE QUESTION OF "ALL OR NOTHING" I REALLY DON'T CARE IF PEOPLE ARE GIVEN AN OPTION TO RESTRICT DAYS OR TIMES, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO RESTRICT THE CALLS "ALL THE TIME" FOR ETERNITY!

IT SHOULD BE EASY TO FILE A CLAIM AGAINST AN OFFENDER TOO. I CAN JUST HEAR THE EXCUSES ALREADY - "SORRY, BUT WE WERE NOT AWARE THAT YOU WERE LISTED ON THE DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY." "YOUR NUMBER WAS NOT LISTED. . .". I AM SURE THESE COMPANIES ARE ALREADY FIGURING OUT WAYS TO GET AROUND THE NEW RULES YOUR ARE PROPOSING EVEN BEFORE THEY ARE WRITTEN. QUESTIONS ARE COMING IN MY MIND - HOW ARE WE GOING TO PROVE THAT A COMPANY HAS CALLED AFTER OUR NUMBER IS LISTED IN THE REGISTRY? OF COURSE, WE WANT TO SEE THEM FINED; BUT HOW IS THE CLAIM PROCESS GOING TO WORK WITHOUT LOOPHOLES?

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BE ABLE TO RESTRICT "ALL" CALLS - EVEN THOSE FROM BANKS, TELEPHONE COMPANIES, AIRLINES, INSURANCE COMPANIES, CREDIT UNIONS, POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AND POLITICAL FUND RAISERS THAT HAVE NO INTERSTATE BUSINESS. WHY CAN'T WE RESTRICT THESE TOO, OR AT LEAST HAVE THE OPTION. IF I WANT THEIR SERVICE, I WILL CALL THEM.

EFFECT ON CONSUMERS - I THINK THIS "DO- NOT- CALL REGISTRY" WILL SAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE LOTS OF MONEY. THEY WON'T BE SPENDING IT ON SERVICES AND PRODUCTS THEY REALLY DON'T NEED. CAN'T WE GO BACK TO - IF I NEED SIDING, I'LL CALL OR GO VISIT A PLACE THAT SELLS SIDING. IF I NEED MY ROOF REPAIRED, I'LL CALL THE ROOFER.

IMPACT ON FIRMS TO COMPLY WITH NEW RULING - WHO CARES. THESE COMPANIES PUT THEMSELVES IN THIS POSITION. THEY ARE DRIVING MOST OF US CRAZY AND BEEN ALLOWED TO INVADE OUR PRIVACY FOR TOO LONG. LET THEM ADVERTISE IN THE PAPER, MAGAZINES, TV, RADIO, ETC. FROM WHICH MEDIUMS WE HAVE THE CHOICE TO READ OR LISTEN TO THEM. WHEN THEY CALL OUR HOMES, WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

IMPACT ON INDUSTRY - AGAIN, THAT IS NOT THE CONSUMER'S PROBLEM. THERE ARE MANY MANY COMPANIES THAT DO NOT USE THESE TACTICS TO SELL THEIR GOODS OR SERVICES. THERE SHOULD NOT EVEN BE A TELEMARKETING INDUSTRY - IT'S LIKE A BOIL ON THE FACE OF OUR SOCIETY.

I REALLY DO NOT LIKE BEING NASTY OR MEAN TO ANYONE; BUT I WILL MAKE A CONFESSION. WHEN I PICK UP THE PHONE AND FIND THAT IT IS A TELEMARKETER, I GET SO ANGRY I CANNOT EVEN SPEAK (TRYING TO CONTROL WHAT I MIGHT SAY). I'M NOT POLITE ANYMORE, AND USUALLY JUST HANG UP. SOMETIMES I'LL SAY SOMETHING, AND I KNOW THE TONE OF MY VOICE REALLY SENDS A CLEAR MESSAGE. BUT LET ME TELL YOU, I DON'T LIKE BEING LIKE THAT; I DON'T LIKE MY BLOOD PRESSURE GOING SO HIGH WHEN I GET ONE OF THESE CALLS. I DON'T LIKE THE AGRAVATION, THE INTERRUPTION, THE INTRUSION. I DON'T LIKE THE INVASION OF MY PRIVACY - PLEASE PUT AN END TO IT.

AND PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT ALL THE FAXES THAT ARE COMING THROUGH UNSOLICITED. I AM SICK OF THESE TOO. SURE SOME OF THEM GIVE "FAX REMOVAL NUMBERS", BUT SOMETIMES THESE DON'T WORK. I STILL GET REPEATED FAXES FROM THE SAME COMPANIES. WHY SHOULD THESE COMPANIES BE ALLOWED TO DO THIS. THEY ARE USING MY TIME AND MY PAPER, MY MACHINE. WHAT GIVES THEM THE RIGHT TO DO THIS? YOUR "DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY" SHOULD INCLUDE THESE COMPANIES TOO.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE COMPANIES THAT HAVE BEEN SENDING ME FAXES REGULARLY:

STOCKTALK JOURNAL
INTERNATIONAL GRAPHIC FILMS
MARKET NEWS ALERT
CHERYL STEVENS PROMOTIONS
AMERICAN NOTARY SEMINARS
THE MONEY LINE REPORT
POWERDATA
THE INVESTORS REPORT
OTC INVESTOR'S EDGE
THE INDEPENDENT INVESTOR'S FINANCIAL FORUM
INVESTOR'S ALERT

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ISN'T THERE SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO STOP THIS? MY RIGHTS ARE BEING VIOLATED,
AND I DON'T LIKE IT.

PLEASE MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES TO EXISTING RULES, OR CREATE NEW RULES TO TAKE
CARE OF THIS PROBLEM THAT AFFECTS EVERYONE OF US.

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Bailey-Pruc".

SUSAN BAILEY-PRUC

[REDACTED] OH [REDACTED]